

Media Advisory



Parents and Adults Inspiring Reading Success (PAIRS)
South Carolina Education Oversight Committee
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Summit to Focus on Moving South Carolina's Students Toward Reading Success

On Saturday, October 15, 2005, "Building Achievement: Moving South Carolina's Students Toward Reading Success," will be held at the South Carolina Archives and History Center in Columbia. The event is the first annual summit of Parents and Adults Inspiring Reading Success (PAIRS), a project of South Carolina's daily newspapers, which is administered by the South Carolina Education Oversight Committee (EOC).

The purpose of the summit is to provide a forum to discuss best practices in effective extended learning programs. Individuals, programs, parents, and interested persons are invited to attend.

According to Dana Yow, PAIRS Coordinator, "The goal is to inform, encourage, and inspire one another in our ultimate mission of improving reading proficiency and ensuring the success of South Carolina's children."

Dori Sanders, a celebrated South Carolina author and an impassioned advocate for childhood literacy is the keynote speaker for the summit, which will be held from 9:00 am-4:00 pm. Breakout sessions will occur throughout the day focused on preparation and support for reading programs and literacy development for upper grade students. Dr. Linda Gambrell, an expert in literacy motivation, will lead a session devoted to nurturing engaged readers.

Panel discussions will focus on "Beating the Odds in Teaching Children to Read: Lessons from Effective Programs" and a panel of media experts.

The goal of PAIRS, which was launched in February 2005, is to help existing groups, organizations and individuals ensure that every child in South Carolina is given the opportunity and the skills to read at the level recommended for his or her grade through one-on-one interaction with parents, mentors and tutors.

For more information or to register, call (803) 734-6164 or visit the PAIRS website at www.SCPAIRS.org.